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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

* 2720 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to constitute a Planning Board for Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to starred question No. 2718.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : May I know the reason for the inordinate delay in constituting a Planning Board for the District of Malabar?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not concede that there was any inordinate delay. It was constituted in time so that necessary recommendations for the formulation of the Second Five-Year Plan might be made.

* 2721 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have constituted a Planning Board for South Kanara; and

(*b*) if not, why?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir

(*b*) Does not arise.

American ghee

* 2722 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the steps taken by the Government to prevent adulteration of the imported American ghee; and

(*b*) whether the ghee from UNICEF has been distributed free to any charitable institutions, and if so, the particulars?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The question of this Government taking any specific steps to prevent adulteration of imported American ghee does not arise as no complaint of adulteration of American ghee has been received by the Government.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : May I know whether this American ghee has been analysed, and if so, what are the ingredients out of which it is made and whether it is made out of cotton seed or not?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Nutrition Section of the Public Health Department have made an analysis of this ghee and they tell me that it is not at all harmful.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : May I know whether the Government are aware that there is wide-spread distribution of American ghee going on through Roman Catholic missions, which is also used by them for religious and other purposes?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government of India have accepted the gift from America. The Regional Director of Food, Government of India, has been distributing it through various institutions like the National Catholic Welfare Conference, New York, the Archbishop of Madras and certain other officers.

SRI A. RATNAM : May I know who are the agencies other than the missionaries in our State and whether the Government have a check over them?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : As I have stated, distribution is done by the Regional Director of Food, Government of India, and not by the Madras Government.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Are there any political strings attached to this presentation of ghee, Sir?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no idea at all about that, Sir.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : As Members of the Estimates Committee, we recently visited some hospitals in the State and we saw this American ghee stocked in the hospitals, but not being used. When questioned as to why they had not been used, we were told that it had been sent for test. May I know from the Hon. Minister what the result of such a test is and whether it is affirmative or negative with regard to its usage?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member may put a separate question to the Hon. Minister for Health.

"*Medical aid*" *for the Vayittiri Panchayat Board*

* 2723 *Q.*—SRI M. K. PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the action taken by the Government on the question of "medical aid" referred to in the Memorandum submitted by the Vayittiri Panchayat Board through the Hon. the Chief Minister on 4th May 1955?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No action was taken as provision of medical aid in rural areas is primarily the responsibility of the local bodies concerned.